Applicants: Roberto VALLI et al. Serial No:U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP2004/004139

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument comprising an action (11) with keys, comprising including strings which are struck via a mechanism when the keys are actuated and are made to vibrate, comprising; a sound board (20), to which the vibrations of the strings are transmitted, and comprising a device (25, 26) for delivering additional vibration energy into the sound board (20), wherein there are provided sensors (15), which directly or indirectly detect actuation of the keys of the action (11), wherein there is provided and a sound-augmenting device (30), to which the measured values of the sensors (15) are supplied, wherein the said sound-augmenting device (30) is being equipped with units (31, 33, 34, 35) which compile data corresponding to a desired sound characteristic in dependence on the measured values of the sensors (15), and wherein the said sound-

augmenting device (30) supplies the sound board (20) with additional vibration energy,

2. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument according to claim 1, characterised in that the vibration energy that is generated externally by the sound-augmenting device (30) is delivered in real time into the sound board (20) via the delivering device (25, 26), in addition to the vibration energy

entering the sound board (20) mechanically from the vibrating acoustic strings.

corresponding to the data obtained, via the delivering device (25, 26).

3. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that the sound-augmenting device (30) comprises a tone sample memory (31) and in that tone samples are associated with the tones including the partial tones thereof from the memory (31), that correspond to the key actuations registered by the sensors (15) in the action (11) of the instrument (10).

Page 5 of 8

Applicants: Roberto VALLI et al. Serial No:U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP2004/004139

4. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument according to any one of the preceding claims

claim 1, characterised in that the sound-augmenting device (30) comprises a tone modification

device (34) and in that the tone modification device (34) modifies the tone data originating from the

sensors (15) and from the memory (31).

5. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument according to any one of the preceding claims

claim 1, characterised in that there is provided including a control module (35), which controls the

tone modification device (34), for example via presets, regulators and/or screen-controlled software,

such that individual sound design is facilitated by selectively influencing the tones.

6. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument according to any one of the preceding claims

<u>claim 5</u>, <u>characterised in that including</u> an amplifier module (36), which amplifies the signals

received from the control module (35), is provided.

7. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument according to claim 6, characterised in that the

signals issuing from the amplifier module (36) are supplied to the device (25, 26) for delivering

vibration energy, where they are converted into mechanical vibrations and introduced into the sound

board (20).

8. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument according to any one of the preceding claims

claim 1, characterised in that the device (25, 26) for delivering vibration energy comprises one or

more driver systems.

9. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument according to claim 8, characterised in that each

driver system (25, 26) comprises a ring magnet, in the core of which there is arranged a coil, which

is fixed to the sound board (20) and drives the sound board (20).

Page 6 of 8

Applicants: Roberto VALLI et al. Serial No:U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP2004/004139

10. (Currently Amended) Pianoforte instrument according to either claim 8 or claim 9,

characterised in that the driver magnet is adjustable in all three dimensions using specific adjustment

devices, and can thus be aligned precisely with the position of the coil former fastened to the sound

board (20).

11. (Original) Pianoforte instrument according to claim 10, characterised in that the adjustable

driver magnet is mounted in a solid base element, which is in turn fastened to a locking element of

the pianoforte instrument.

12. (Currently Amended) Method for influencing the sound of a pianoforte instrument

comprising an action (11) with keys, comprising including strings which are struck via a mechanism

when the keys are actuated and are made to vibrate, comprising the steps of, providing a sound board

(20), to which the vibrations of the strings are transmitted, and comprising providing a device (25;

26) for delivering additional vibration energy into the sound board (20), characterised in that the

actuation of the keys of the action (11) is directly or indirectly detected by means of sensors (15), in

that the measured values of the sensors (15) are supplied to a sound-augmenting device (30), in that

there are provided units (31, 33, 34, 35) which compile data corresponding to a desired characteristic

sound as a function of the measured values of the sensors (15), and in that the sound-augmenting

device (30) supplies the sound board (20) with additional vibration energy, corresponding to the data

obtained, via the delivering device (25, 26).